

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring files, said method comprising:
  - receiving a folder including at least one file path specifying a server machine and a directory;
  - for one or more of said file paths in said folder:
    - transmitting a query to said server machine requesting current directory data corresponding to said directory, said current directory data including a file name, a created date, a modified date and a file size for files included in said directory;
    - receiving said current directory data from said server machine in response to said query; and
    - storing said server machine, said directory and said current directory data in a monitoring database;
    - creating a monitoring report including said server machine, said directory and said current directory data for said one or more of said file paths; and
    - transmitting said monitoring report to a user.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising adding a new file path to said folder.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising removing one of said file paths from said folder.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - updating a recipient list associated with said folder, said recipient list including one or more e-mail addresses; and
  - transmitting said monitoring report to said one or more e-mail addresses included in said recipient list.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a log file for said current directory data for said one or more of said file paths in response to said storing.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said server machine is a local machine.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said server machine is a remote machine and said query is transmitted via a network.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising presenting said current directory data for said one or more of said file paths to a user.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein said presenting includes displaying said current directory data in a user interface screen.
10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
comparing said current directory data to a previous version of said directory data; and  
transmitting an alert message to said user if a previous file size in said previous version of said directory data is larger than a corresponding said file size in said current directory data.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a trigger event for said folder, wherein said receiving a folder is in response to said trigger event.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said trigger event is a pre-selected time of day.
13. The method of claim 11 wherein said trigger event is a pre-selected time interval.
14. The method of claim 11 wherein said trigger event is an occurrence of a pre-specified event.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said pre-specified event is a user launching a file monitoring application.

16. A system for monitoring files, the system comprising:  
a network;  
a storage device in communication with said network, wherein said storage device includes a monitoring database;  
a host system in communication with said network, said host system including application software to implement a method comprising:  
    receiving a folder including at least one file path specifying a server machine and a directory;  
    for one or more of said file paths in said folder:  
        transmitting a query via said network to said server machine requesting current directory data corresponding to said directory, said current directory data including a file name, a created date, a modified date and a file size for files included in said directory;  
        receiving said current directory data from said server machine via said network in response to said query; and  
        storing said server machine, said directory and said current directory data in a monitoring database;  
    creating a monitoring report including said server machine, said directory and said current directory data for said one or more of said file paths; and  
    transmitting said monitoring report to a user.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said application software is written in visual basic.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein said host system is a personal computer.

19. The system of claim 16 wherein said network is the Internet.

20. The system of claim 16 wherein said network is an intranet.

21. The system of claim 16 wherein said monitoring database is a relational database.

22. A computer program product for monitoring files, the computer program product comprising:

a storage medium readable by a processing circuit and storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for facilitating a method comprising:

receiving a folder including at least one file path specifying a server machine and a directory;

for one or more of said file paths in said folder:

transmitting a query to said server machine requesting current directory data corresponding to said directory, said current directory data including a file name, a created date, a modified date and a file size for files included in said directory;

receiving said current directory data from said server machine in response to said query; and

storing said server machine, said directory and said current directory data in a monitoring database;

creating a monitoring report including said server machine, said directory and said current directory data for said one or more of said file paths; and

transmitting said monitoring report to a user.